

Eeyou Eenou

NEWSLETTER

GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EYYOU ISTCHEE) / CREE NATION GOVERNMENT

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ISSUE 3

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The Mid-Canada Line Cleanup is underway in Quebec and being led by Cree traditional land use experts

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Youth Profile: Linden Spencer

This newsletter features a profile on Linden Spencer, an entrepreneur and youth chief of Eastmain and his message to youth

COVER:

Thank you to everyone that contributed to this issue's images and content.

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1. RETURN OF THE EYYOU ISTCHEE SUMMER GAMES

MISTISSINI, JULY 14-21, 2024

AFTER A 13-YEAR HIATUS, THE EYYOU ISTCHEE SUMMER GAMES ARE BACK BRINGING TOGETHER 6 CREE COMMUNITIES IN A SPIRIT OF COMPETITION, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY.

The Eeyou Istchee Summer Games began on July 14th, with over 500 athletes joining in the opening ceremonies from Mistissini, Waswanipi, Ouje-Bougoumou, Washaw Sibi, Chisasibi and Whapmagoostui. The games bring together young athletes aged 9 to 18 from across the Cree territories to compete in over 40 events, including track, field, and aquatic sports. These competitions are designed to promote sportsmanship and excellence while highlighting the importance of community and cultural exchange. In addition to the youth events, traditional games for adults are also included, emphasizing the preservation and celebration of Cree traditions.

Cultural activities play a significant role in the games, with CNACA organizing several workshops and activities each day. An artisan market, immersive mural at the Youth Centre, and workshops at the Cree Justice tent were also offered.

Events were livestreamed by the James Bay Cree Communication Society and brought together online and onsite spectators from throughout the Cree Nation offering an important opportunity to celebrate youth athletes and strengthen ties between communities.

"I want to congratulate each athlete that was part of the Eeyou Istchee Summer Games. While so many of us celebrate athletes that have achieved so much. I want you to all realize that every one of you are capable of achieving greatness and this is your moment to shine."

- Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty



7. BEING YOUTH CHIEF AND AN ENTREPRENEUR

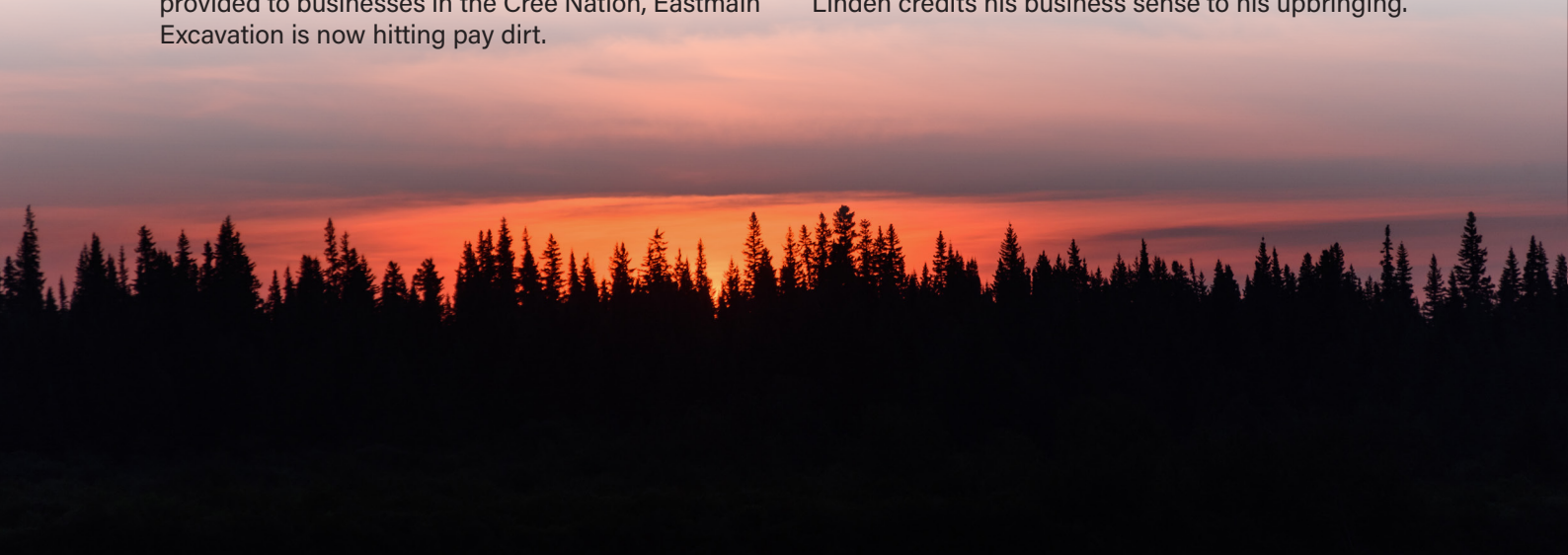
Interview with Linden Spencer



Entrepreneur and Youth Chief from Eastmain Linden Spencer is the proud owner of three companies. Linden has been in business partnership with his brother Lindros since 2020, co-owning his first construction business Eastmain Excavation.

Coming in right in the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the company started out on rocky ground but, with the help of the CNG and relief funding provided to businesses in the Cree Nation, Eastmain Excavation is now hitting pay dirt.

Linden also owns a bus service, Nouchimi Mayheux and EGJ Nouchimi a construction company handling large scale civil projects in the James Bay area. Linden credits his business sense to his upbringing.



“MY DAD GREW UP A BUSINESSMAN, THAT’S WHERE I GET MY ‘GO TO’ MENTALITY,” HE SAID. “HE DID A GREAT JOB RAISING US AND I WANT TO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS. I OWE HIM A HUGE THANK YOU FOR WHERE WE ARE TODAY.”

Eastmain Excavation’s first job was landscaping around the community of Eastmain and the jobs kept coming. With each successful venture, Linden says the key to their success was continuously investing back into the company.

As an indication of their success, the company has just recently purchased a 36-ton shovel worth around \$300K and a flatbed truck worth close to half a million dollars.

The company was also instrumental in providing local training, offering residents the chance to receive their CCQ construction safety certificate, a requirement for everyone working in construction.

“I’m actually proud of it, everyone who did the course got their safety card,” Spencer admitted.

The company is now in the process of bringing back the construction safety course this summer and, in conjunction with Apatisiwin Skills Development, they are also planning to provide a local operator’s training course in excavation.

“Don’t quit”, is Linden’s advice to his fellow Cree youth.

Linden has two daughters and a partner Naomi Linklater from Moose Factory.

“DON’T QUIT, THERE IS GOING BE A DOOR THAT’S SHUT ON YOU BUT THERE’S ALWAYS ANOTHER DOOR THAT YOU CAN GO THROUGH. DON’T BE AFRAID TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP, DO SOMETHING THAT YOU’RE AFRAID TO DO AND JUST BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.” BECAUSE ANYONE CAN DO ANYTHING WHEN THEY BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES.”

Linden Spencer



